

The background image shows a rocky shoreline with various pieces of debris. A large, rusted metal pipe or rod lies diagonally across the upper left. A worn, black tire is visible in the lower center, partially obscured by the text box. The ground is covered with small rocks, pebbles, and some dried plant matter. The overall scene suggests a natural area affected by human waste or industrial debris.

# Statewide Standards for Trash Monitoring Methods

# About the Project

Shelly Moore  
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

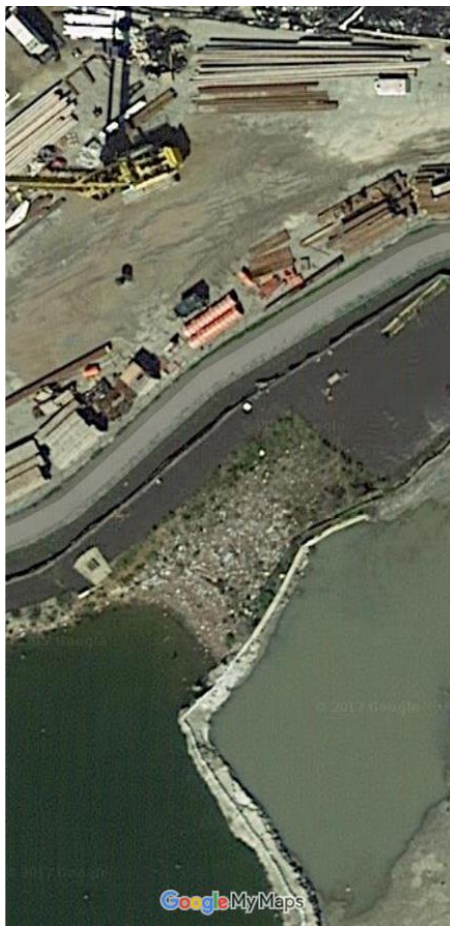
Tony Hale  
San Francisco Estuary Institute

# Statewide Standards for Trash Monitoring Methods

3 years • 2017-2020

- **Funder:**
    - Ocean Protection Council
  - **Project Leads:**
    - Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)
    - San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)
  - **Partner Agency:**
    - State Water Resources Control Board
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# Project Goals

- Develop a library of standard trash monitoring methods through field testing, research, and outreach
  - Link management questions to viable trash monitoring methods
  - Recommend standards in trash monitoring methods and information management to facilitate statewide trash characterization
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# Approach

- Innovation
  - Four field methods, favoring new technologies
- Focus on receiving waters
  - As appropriate, may focus on sources & pathways
- Statewide relevance
  - Must apply to different habitats and varied geographies



# Approach (cont'd)

- Build upon established efforts  
BASMAA, Bight, municipal and NGO programs
- Will coordinate with regional partners  
Interested in learning about the greatest challenges in trash monitoring





# Approach (cont'd)

- Prioritize openness and transparency

Feature methods that maximize the openness of data collection and analytical algorithms

- Provide resources to programs

Outreach, tools, and guidance





# Process

**Convene Technical  
Advisory Committee  
(TAC)**

**Desired outcome:**

Review and approve slate of monitoring methods to field test

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**Convene stakeholder  
group**

**Desired outcome:**

Refine proposed field testing projects

Determine best forms of ongoing communication, engagement, and outreach

## Process (cont'd)

Conduct field testing

**Desired outcome:**

Determine standard methods to address priority management questions

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Share results

**Desired outcome:**

Inform emergent trash monitoring programs of opportunities for innovation and standardized approaches



How you can participate...



# Ways to participate

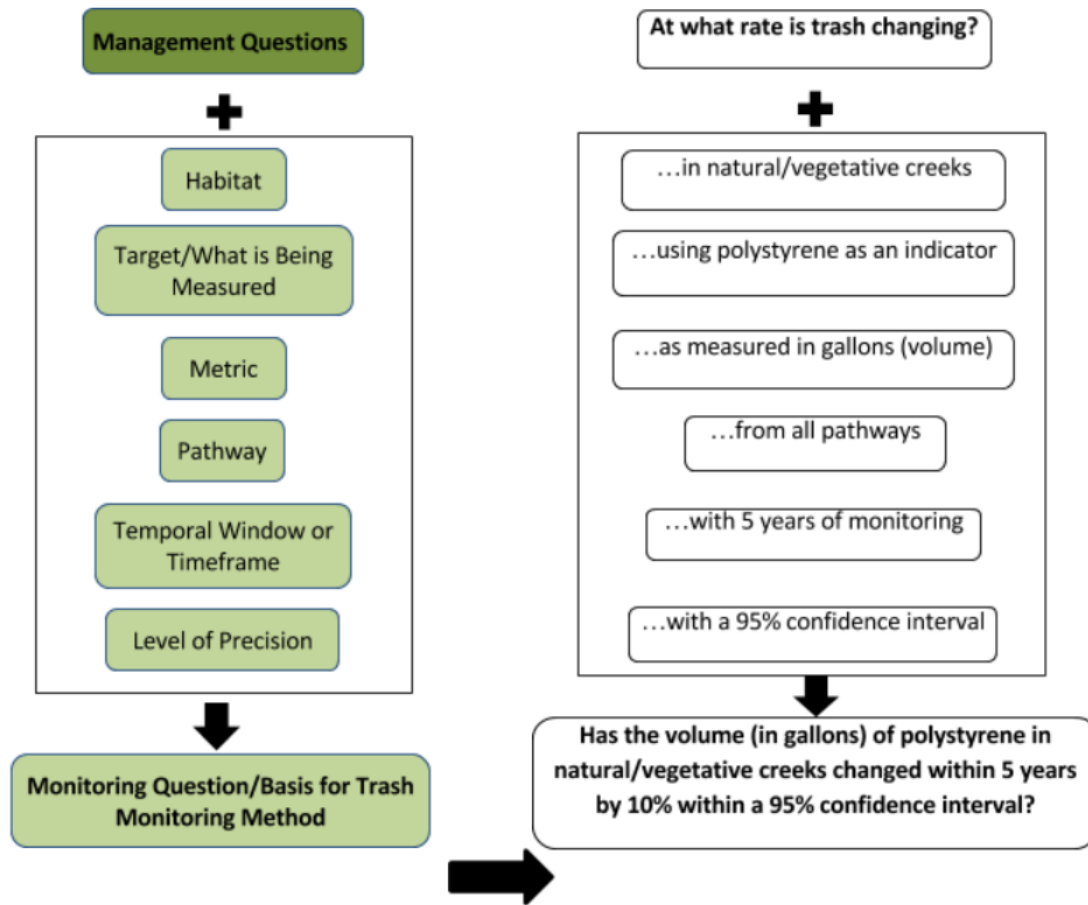
- Join stakeholder group to review workplan, monitoring design, and project outputs
  - Lend technical expertise on selected field methods through the TAC
  - Contact PIs, Shelly and Tony, with any inquiries: [shellym@sccwrp.org](mailto:shellym@sccwrp.org) and [tonyh@sfei.org](mailto:tonyh@sfei.org)
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# Conceptual Model Workshop, April 2017

- Project will build upon the work to assemble a conceptual model in a workshop convened by the Ocean Protection Council
- Emerging from the workshop were the following priority questions:
  - How much trash is out there?
  - At what rate is it changing?
  - What are the sources of trash (and how much or what portion does each source contribute)?
  - What are the most effective management actions?

Figure 1: Translating Management Questions into Scientific Monitoring Questions



Emerging model  
relating

management  
questions

to

monitoring  
questions and  
field methods



# Desired project outputs according to workshop participants

- A report featuring...
  - trash monitoring protocols and clear instructions for data collection and analysis (on both the front and back end of data collection) to promote engagement by non-experts and community-based scientists
- Staff training modules and tutorials for community-based scientists
- Development of data management standards for monitoring entities, and encouraging adoption, perhaps by creating an open-source database
- Interim project updates for stakeholders, including the larger community beyond monitoring practitioners and permittees. These updates could include webinars and presentations from involved researchers or grad students.

# Thank you!

## Questions?

Shelly Moore: [shellym@sccwrp.org](mailto:shellym@sccwrp.org)

Tony Hale: [tonyh@sfei.org](mailto:tonyh@sfei.org)

